

Appendix E

Child Care Resource and Referral Network

The Washington State Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) network is a statewide nonprofit association of community-based child care resource and referral programs across the state which offer a wide variety of services to parents, caregivers, and communities. For parents, CCR&R provides an information and referral service. Caregivers turn to CCR&R for training and technical support. At the community level, CCR&R raises awareness of childcare issues and coordinates community-wide efforts to improve childcare. Additionally, CCR&R collects and analyzes data relating to the supply and demand of childcare, including provider prices.

CCR&R programs offer services through a network of 17 locally based programs. Each local program maintains an up-to-date database of provider information for the surrounding communities. Once per month, the data are sent to the CCR&R Network office for statewide compilation and analysis. An annual “snapshot” of the state of the childcare market is created for use in CCR&R annual reports and other publications.

For this study, the Washington State CCR&R Network provided data showing the state of the childcare market in December of 1996 and 1997 and September of 1998 and 1999. The datasets included anonymous provider prices, provider capacity, and response rate by county. The response rates refer to the percentage of providers in each county that provided their prices to CCR&R.

In general, the data include prices for 80-100 percent of the providers in each county; however, a few of the response rates dip as low as 67 percent. Most of the counties with lower response rates have a very small number of providers; therefore, the lack of a few providers’ prices causes a large dip in the response rate for that county.

The data include more counties in each successive year from 1996 through 1999. As CCR&R increased their operations to cover more counties, they collected data for more counties. For instance, the 1996 data include only 27 counties while the 1999 data contain information for 38 counties.

Besides the DSHS survey, the Washington State CCR&R network is the only other source of provider-level price data for the childcare market across Washington.